

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2236

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**Bradley H. Jones, Jr.**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to establishing a commission to study the reorganization of municipal public safety agencies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	1st Plymouth
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
George N. Peterson, Jr.	9th Worcester
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
F. Jay Barrows	1st Bristol
Paul K. Frost	7th Worcester
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Bradford R. Hill	4th Essex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Robert S. Hargraves	1st Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE REORGANIZATION OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special  
2 commission to study the feasibility and practicality of authorizing municipalities of the  
3 commonwealth to merge their police and fire departments into single cohesive public safety  
4 agencies, under a unified command structure, while maintaining proper emergency services  
5 which will enable cities and towns to continue operations smoothly and more efficiently after  
6 police and fire unification.

7 The commission shall consist of 13 members; the lieutenant governor of the commonwealth,  
8 who shall chair the commission; 4 members of the senate, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the  
9 senate president, 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on public safety and 1 of which  
10 shall be a member of the committee on municipalities & regional government, and 1 of whom  
11 shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; 4 members of the house of representatives, 3 of  
12 whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, 1 of which shall be a member of the  
13 committee on public safety and 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on municipalities  
14 & regional government, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; the

secretary of the executive office of public safety or his designee; and 1 member appointed by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts municipal association, the Massachusetts association of police chiefs, and the Massachusetts firefighter's association.

The scope of the commission's inquiry shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Assessing existing fire and police recruit training programs and identifying ways in which new recruits could be cross-trained to take on both the roles of police officers and firefighters
2. Identifying cost efficiencies and savings of merging police and fire departments under single unified command structures, including salary, pension, and healthcare cost savings
3. Identifying logistical problems associated with merging police and fire departments, and possible solutions to those problems
4. Identifying current legal and political impediments to the merging of police and fire departments, and possible solutions to those impediments
5. Analyzing any impact on emergency services posed by merging police and fire departments, and possible solutions to overcome those impacts
6. Identifying any other incentives and disadvantages to merging police and fire departments
7. Recommending legislation that will promote and provide municipalities the authority to effectively merge police and fire departments, if they so choose, while maintaining effective emergency services under a unified department and command
8. Creating a report that contains the result of its investigation, including any recommendations that could be used as a framework for legislation necessary to carry

38 out each recommendation accompanied with an explanation of the legislative intent  
39 of each draft proposal.

40 The commission shall submit its report and findings, along with any drafts of legislation, to the  
41 governor, the joint committee on municipalities and regional government, the joint committee on  
42 public safety and homeland security, the office of the senate president, the office of the senate  
43 minority leader, the office of the speaker of the house of representatives, the office of the house  
44 minority leader, and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate not later than  
45 January 31, 2010.